

Grade 9
Achievement Test

English Language Arts
Part B: Reading

June 1994

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Grade 9 Achievement Test
English Language Arts
Part B: Reading

Questions Booklet

Description

Part B: Reading of the Grade 9 English Language Arts Achievement Test has 2 booklets:

- the Readings Booklet contains 8 reading selections and 3 visuals,
- the Questions Booklet contains 65 questions.

You have 1 1/2 hours to complete this test.

Instructions

- Be sure that you have a **Readings Booklet**, a **Questions Booklet**, and an **Answer Sheet**.
- On the answer sheet provided, use **only** an HB pencil to mark the **correct** or **best** answer for each question, as shown in the following example:

A rose is

- A. a fruit
- B. a flower
- C. an animal
- D. an automobile

Answer Sheet



- Mark only **one** answer for each question. If you change an answer, erase your first mark **completely**.
- Make sure that the number of the question on your answer sheet matches the number of the question you are answering.
- You may write in the test booklet. However, you **must** place your answers on the answer sheet provided.
- You may **not** use a dictionary, thesaurus, or other reference materials.



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- I. Read “The Phone Call” on pages 1 and 2 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 1 to 8.
1. To “wing it” (line 60) means to act
 - A. decisively
 - B. spontaneously
 - C. immediately
 - D. intelligently
 2. The mood of the narrator before placing the phone call is one of
 - A. nervousness
 - B. confidence
 - C. frustration
 - D. satisfaction
 3. The narrator’s **internal** conflict is shown through his
 - A. actual words
 - B. body language
 - C. thought processes
 - D. nervous actions
 4. Which question seems artificial for this narrator?
 - A. “Noreen, do you know what the homework is for biology tomorrow?”
 - B. “Noreen, how would you like to share an evening in paradise with me?”
 - C. “Noreen, what are you doing Friday night?”
 - D. “Noreen, I was wondering if you’d like to go to the Graduation Dance with me.”
 5. The irony in this story comes from the author’s use of
 - A. foreshadowing
 - B. a sarcastic tone
 - C. flashback
 - D. surprise ending

6. Throughout most of the story, the narrator is

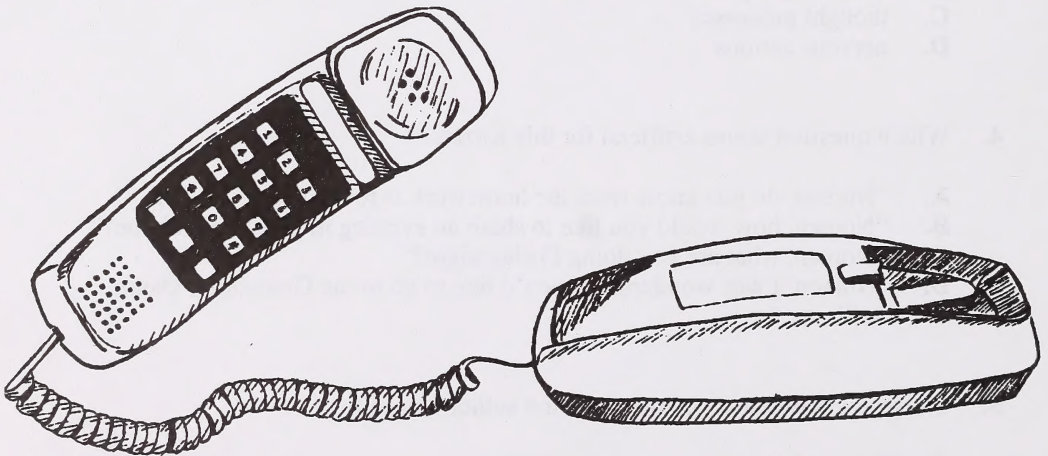
- A. confident
- B. indecisive
- C. relaxed
- D. forceful

7. The author's style is shown through

- A. character description
- B. colourful vocabulary
- C. imaginary dialogue
- D. setting details

8. The author's purpose is to

- A. entertain
- B. inform
- C. persuade
- D. instruct



II. Read “The Clippers” on page 3 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 9 to 13.

9. The **main** purpose of the first paragraph is to
- A. argue the strengths of the clipper
 - B. contrast clippers and steamships
 - C. introduce the clipper
 - D. list the kinds of clippers
10. The **main** idea in the second paragraph is **best** summed up by
- A. “A major event that spurred clipper development”
 - B. “the Far East was fountainhead to a bustling tea trade”
 - C. “Everything conspired to make the dashing clipper the ideal vessel for the times”
 - D. “The mood of the competitors was at times closer to hysteria than commercial enthusiasm”
11. The author believes that if cargo space had not been sacrificed for speed, the
- A. clipper might still be in use today
 - B. clipper’s life span would have been no different
 - C. clipper’s decline would have been more rapid
 - D. clipper might have lasted longer
12. At the height of clipper popularity, the **most** important factor about a clipper was its
- A. passenger capacity
 - B. speed
 - C. cargo capacity
 - D. reliability
13. The word “demise” as used in line 26 means
- A. unpopularity
 - B. beginning
 - C. end
 - D. popularity

III. Read “The Flood-Tide” on page 4 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 14 to 22.

- 14.** The man writes the woman’s name in the sand
- A. neatly
 - B. thoughtfully
 - C. effortlessly
 - D. carelessly
- 15.** In line 4, the expression “flux of sand” suggests that the sand is
- A. smooth
 - B. packed
 - C. dry
 - D. changing
- 16.** The “long, thin fingers” (line 7) are the
- A. silver webs
 - B. strokes in the sand
 - C. girl’s fingers
 - D. water’s edge
- 17.** The word “subside” as used in line 11 means to
- A. roll in
 - B. ease in
 - C. creep up
 - D. roll out
- 18.** The woman wrote the man’s name
- A. in sand under the “grey waters”
 - B. “upon the flux of sand”
 - C. in sand the waves could not reach
 - D. where the man had written hers

19. The man's action shows
- A. affection
 - B. devotion
 - C. concern
 - D. disinterest
20. The woman's action shows
- A. affection
 - B. devotion
 - C. concern
 - D. disinterest
21. In this poem, the poet is suggesting that
- A. time, like the sea, destroys love
 - B. love is not always mutually felt
 - C. love is carefree and careless
 - D. one should enjoy love while time permits
22. The poet suggests a similarity between
- A. the man and the waves
 - B. the man and the woman
 - C. the woman and the tide
 - D. the woman and the sea

IV. Examine the cartoon on page 5 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 23 to 25.

- 23.** In the first frame, Peppermint Patti **most likely** is
- A.** hoping Snoopy can help her with her problems
 - B.** reflecting upon all the things that have gone wrong recently
 - C.** trying to get attention from Snoopy because no one else will give her any
 - D.** sitting down to escape her problems for a while
- 24.** The advice Snoopy gives to Peppermint Patti is that she should
- A.** talk with a friend
 - B.** show that a kiss makes people happy
 - C.** listen to a friend in need
 - D.** show people that she cares for them
- 25.** Peppermint Patti's mood changes from
- A.** disappointment to optimism
 - B.** indifference to relief
 - C.** despair to peace of mind
 - D.** frustration to surprise

- V. Read the excerpt from “Nellie McClung: A Patient Suffragist” on pages 6 and 7 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 26 to 34.
26. The phrase “A Patient Suffragist” suggests that Nellie McClung was
- A. persistent
 - B. passive
 - C. unhealthy
 - D. intimidated
27. The word “eloquent” in line 19 means
- A. extravagant
 - B. long-winded
 - C. interesting
 - D. fluent
28. The **most effective** method Nellie McClung used to gain widespread support for her cause was
- A. writing petitions
 - B. role reversal
 - C. public speaking
 - D. running for parliament
29. According to this article, the strongest opposition to Nellie McClung’s suffragist movement came from
- A. her own sense of obligation to her family
 - B. her husband and mother-in-law
 - C. the government
 - D. other women
30. According to this article, Nellie McClung believed that
- A. economic independence for women was important
 - B. women should be paid for housework
 - C. women should be prevalent in politics
 - D. Canada’s laws should favour women

31. According to this article, the turning point in the suffragist movement was Nellie McClung's
- A. publication of her novel, *Sowing Seeds in Danny*, in 1908
 - B. petition for women's rights
 - C. election to the legislature
 - D. staging of the mock parliament on January 28, 1914
32. The authors' attitude toward Nellie McClung seems to be one of
- A. contempt
 - B. admiration
 - C. envy
 - D. tolerance
33. Nellie McClung's actions were motivated by
- A. her desire to have her book published
 - B. the Women's Christian Temperance Union
 - C. the unfairness of the law for women
 - D. her desire to become famous
34. Based on this article, the word that **best** describes Nellie McClung is
- A. self-righteous
 - B. dedicated
 - C. self-serving
 - D. humorous

- VI. Read the poems “Every Part of This Earth is Sacred” and “Words to a Grandchild” on page 8 of your Readings Booklet, and then answer questions 35 to 43.**
- 35.** In “Words to a Grandchild,” the author writes “Things will whisper their secrets” (line 3). In “Every Part of This Earth is Sacred,” these “things” could be
- A.** men, mothers, and children
 - B.** the sons of the earth
 - C.** strands in the web of life
 - D.** pine needles, sandy shores, and insects
- 36.** The word “complacency” (line 11) in “Words to a Grandchild” is **closest** in meaning to
- A.** ignorance
 - B.** self-importance
 - C.** self-indulgence
 - D.** indifference
- 37.** In the poem “Words to a Grandchild,” the pronoun “it” in line 15 **most likely** refers to
- A.** listening to the hour of magic
 - B.** being responsible to your fellow man
 - C.** studying the change of the seasons
 - D.** being sensitive to nature
- 38.** In the poem “Every Part of This Earth is Sacred,” the phrase “sons of the earth” (line 6) refers to
- A.** human beings
 - B.** children
 - C.** environmentalists
 - D.** native leaders
- 39.** The theme of the poem “Every Part of This Earth is Sacred” is
- A.** apathy toward life
 - B.** reverence for the earth
 - C.** the harshness of nature
 - D.** joy in nature

40. The authors' tone in these two poems is
- A. pessimistic
 - B. reflective
 - C. optimistic
 - D. apathetic
41. The authors of these two poems speak with the
- A. enthusiasm of the young
 - B. innocence of children
 - C. wisdom of the mature
 - D. enthusiasm of the elders
42. A common theme in both of these poems is that
- A. humans destroy the earth through industrial expansion
 - B. humans try to imitate nature through technology
 - C. nature is all-encompassing and humans are merely a part of the whole
 - D. nature and humans cannot coexist peacefully
43. These poems would appeal **most** to people concerned with
- A. our environment
 - B. developing resources
 - C. unraveling nature's secrets
 - D. the previous generation



VII. Read the consumer information pamphlet “Look Who’s Stealing Your Electricity” on page 9 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 44 and 45.

- 44.** This consumer information pamphlet was **most likely** published to
- A.** teach us how to test our appliances
 - B.** encourage us to use less energy
 - C.** force us to think about how we use appliances
 - D.** aid us in prolonging the life of our appliances
- 45.** A two dollar bill is suggested for the test because
- A.** it associates energy saving with money saving
 - B.** the one dollar coin is too thick
 - C.** this is approximately the amount one can save in a month
 - D.** it blows out easily if air is escaping

VIII. Read the excerpt from *The Guardian of Isis* on page 10 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 46 to 53.

- 46.** The word “plaits” (line 2) means
- A. folds
 - B. waves
 - C. curves
 - D. braids
- 47.** The sentence “Her blatant admiration warmed him inside” (line 3) suggests that Jody felt
- A. embarrassed
 - B. nervous
 - C. pleased
 - D. important
- 48.** From this excerpt, it can be inferred that during the winter
- A. it was very cold
 - B. food was scarce
 - C. people did not socialize
 - D. their skin stretched and hurt
- 49.** The “poor weak dot of light” (line 25) refers to
- A. Ra
 - B. a star
 - C. their home
 - D. Earth
- 50.** Jody had a difficult time believing that
- A. his ancestors were from Earth
 - B. Earth was small and reddish-gold
 - C. the Councillors told legends
 - D. he had been born on Isis

51. According to the details in this excerpt, Isis was
- A. a star
 - B. inhabited by settlers from Earth
 - C. close to Earth
 - D. overseen by a Guardian
52. This excerpt is an example of
- A. science fiction
 - B. mystery
 - C. historical fiction
 - D. mythology
53. The inhabitants of Isis were **probably** celebrating
- A. the arrival of another group of inhabitants
 - B. some of the councillors and elders arriving from Home
 - C. Earth's appearance signaling the end of a long harsh winter
 - D. Ra's disappearance

IX. Use the “Summary of the Dewey Decimal Classification System” on page 11 of your Readings Booklet to answer questions 54 to 57.

- 54.** If you were given a dog for your birthday and wanted information on how to care for it, you should look under classification number
- A. 030
 - B. 574
 - C. 590
 - D. 636
- 55.** If you were doing a research project on Alberta poetry, where would you find the **most specific** information?
- A. 971.23
 - B. 920/928
 - C. 819.1
 - D. 030
- 56.** How many major classifications are there in the Dewey Decimal System?
- A. 9
 - B. 10
 - C. 500
 - D. 990
- 57.** In the Dewey Decimal System, works of fiction would be found under
- A. General Works
 - B. Languages and Dictionaries
 - C. Arts
 - D. Literature

- X. Read “Sarah Tops” on pages 12 to 14 in your Readings Booklet and answer questions 58 to 64.**
- 58.** What had the narrator been doing at the museum?
- A. Researching dinosaurs
 - B. Checking out a murder
 - C. Working on a term paper
 - D. Visiting an exhibit
- 59.** The man had hidden in the museum because he
- A. was trying to get away from his gang
 - B. had stolen a diamond from the museum
 - C. was trying to get away from the museum guards
 - D. had looked for Sarah Tops
- 60.** The murder took place
- A. beside the dinosaur exhibit
 - B. outside the jewelry store
 - C. near the police station
 - D. outside the museum
- 61.** The woman who found the dying man **most likely** felt
- A. distressed
 - B. indifferent
 - C. calm
 - D. anxious
- 62.** The phrase “It looked like a huge, underground cave” (lines 73–74) is an example of
- A. metaphor
 - B. simile
 - C. suspense
 - D. exaggeration

63. In the phrase “Dad put it in an envelope” (line 92), “it” refers to

- A. chewing gum
- B. dinosaur bone
- C. a note
- D. a jewel

64. “Try—Sarah—Tops” actually refers to a

- A. dinosaur
 - B. secret code
 - C. cake store
 - D. toy
-

XI. Examine “Tribute to Henry Ford 1, 2, 3,” on page 15 of your Readings Booklet and answer question 65.

65. What modern scenes do these concrete poems represent?

- A. Highway driving
- B. Highway menaces
- C. Traffic patterns
- D. Traffic jams

